Public relations set-up of Public Sector Companies

2409. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of money being spent on the public relations set-up of public sector undertakings and what is their annual entertainment budget on this account;

(b) whether a study has been conducted of the impact of this public relations work on the image of these undertakings among the public and the media;

(c) whether Government have any plans to economise expenditure on this account;

(d) whether any study has been conducted of the work efficiency of publicity establishments of these undertakings and their publications programme; and

(e) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The Board of Directors of the public sector undertakings determine the funds for their public relations set-up and for entertainment. The efforts involved in collection of information will not be commensurate with the results sought to be achieved.

(b) No Sir. However, the impact of public relations cannot be specifically quantified. The general public and the media form their opinion or image about any public sector enterprise in terms of its efficiency, profitability, utility to the consumers, the quality of the products etc.

(c) It is for the public sector enterprises to determine the expenditure on the public relations set-up keeping in view their requirements. However in May 1985, the Government reviewed the instruction on advertising expenditure and informed the public enterprises that though there is no restriction on incurring of expenditure on advertisement and publicity related to sales promotion and obligatory advertisements, unnecessary and osfentations expenditure should be avoided.

(d) and (e) No Sir. However in July 1983, the public enterprises were advised to review their publication programme so as to reduce the incidence of expenditure thereon.

Scop of Economy in Public Sector Undertakings

2410. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to study the scope of economy in expenditure by the public sector undertakings without impairing their efficiency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): Bureau of Public Enterprises has been advising the public enterprises to effect economy in Plan and Non-Plan expenditure from time to time. The areas in which they have been specifically asked to exercise restrain *inter alia* include foreign tours, maintenance and upkeep of guest houses, staff cars, maintenance and upkeep of head offices, expenditure on entertainment of guests including the foreign guests, expenditure on purchase of greeting cards and publicity. The existing guidelines are being reviewed by the Government from time to time.

Indian Projects in Libya

2411. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the Indian projects in Libya which are being cancelled or have already been cancelled and the reasons therefor;

(b) what is the quantum of loss suffered by each company so far as as a result thereof;

(c) what is the position regarding payment of arrears due to each Indian Company working in Libya till July 1985 and what steps have been taken by Government to recover the arrears;

(d) what criteria are adopted by the working groups of the Export-Import Bank for clearance of project proposals and what changes have been effected during the last two years in case of Libya;

(e) what are the details of bids cleared by the working group during 1983, 1984 and 1985; and

(f) whether any Indian company has been awarded new project in Libya during the current years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) The Government of Libya issued Decree No. 90 of February 9, 1985 to withdraw some of the projects being executed in Libya by foreign companies which had not started or had been delayed or had been stopped. This list included 34 projects being executed by Indian companies. Libyan authorities have assured that Indian contractors would be given adequate opportunity to explain their case before any decision is taken to withdraw the projects. It has also been agreed that this and the problem of pending payments would be discussed by Technical Committee of Experts specially set-up for the purpose.

(d) Technical feasibility, financial and commercial viability are the criteria considered by Working Group for according clearance to the Project proposals. Delays in payments are kept in view while examining the proposals.

(e) Following are the details of total bids cleared by the Working Group during 1983, 1984 and June ending 1985.

	No. of bids	Value
		Rs. s Cror
1983 . . .	264	4586
1984 . . .	232	4990
Upto June end 1985	107	2314

(f) M/s. Vijay Tanks and Vessels Pvt., Ltd., have been awarded one project for construction of fuel oil facilities in Libya valued at Rs. 9.71 crores.

Manufacture of Nylon Fish Net

2412. SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of letters of intent issued to 100 per cent export-oriented units for the manufacture of nylon fish net during the years 1983 and 1984; and

(b) whether any applications are pending concurrence and if so, the number of such applications and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Four approval letters were issued during the years 1983 and 1984 under the scheme of 100 per cent export-oriented units for the manufacture of nylon fish nets.

(b) Eight applications for the manufacture of nylon fish nets under the scheme of 100 per cent export-oriented units are pending for detailed scrutiny by the concerned Departments for final disposal.